As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: .

 $\,$  My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to  $\,$  my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name listed below), or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled,

## Improved Muffler

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office, all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued therefrom.

## Power of Attorney:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s):

Frank Z. Yang (35,417) and Martin M. Faier (20,294) of Faier and Faier, P.C., 566 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661,

as attorneys with full power of substitution to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Please send all correspondence to

Faier and Faier, P.C. 566 W. Adams Street Chicago, Illinois 60661 312-382-9500

David F. Arlasky
6401 Warner Avenue Huntington Beach, CA 92647
same as above
U.S.A.
7/10/03
CAN A. A

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

David F. Arlasky
) Group Art Unit: not yet
Serial No.: not assigned yet
) assigned
)
Filed: Herewith
) Examiner: not yet assigned
)
Title: Improved Muffler
)

## <u>Verified Statement (Declaration) Claiming Small Entity</u> Status (37 C.F.R. 1.9f and 1.27b) - Independent Inventor

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under §§ 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention captioned above, and described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(d) or a non-profit organization under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(e).

. I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 C.F.R. 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued therefrom to which this statement is directed.

Name: David F. Arlasky Date: 7/10/03 Signature